

Appl. No. 10/705,694
Docket No. D4984-00017
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As a result of this Amendment, claims 2-28 are under active consideration in the subject patent application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

- (1) objected to claims 3, 7, and 16 for various informalities and required correction;
- (2) rejected claims 1, 12, 13 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,593,603, issued to Johnson;
- (3) rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,593,603, issued to Johnson with U.S. Patent No. 4,390,159, issued to Duncan;
- (4) identified claims 15-27 as presenting allowable subject matter; and
- (5) objected to claims 2-4, 6-11, and 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicating that claims 2-4, 6-11, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

With regard to Item 1, Applicant has amended claims 3, 7 and 16 so as to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objections are requested.

With regard to Items 2, 3, and 5, claim 2 has been amended so as to present it in independent form by including all of the subject matter defined by now canceled claim 1. As acknowledged by the Examiner claim 2 presents

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allowable subject matter, and is therefore allowable as amended. Dependent claims 3, 4, and 6-14 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 2, and are therefore allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Official Action. Claim 5 has been amended so as to present it in independent form by including all of the subject matter defined by amended independent claim 2. Independent claim 5 is allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Official Action. Claim 28 has been amended by including all of the subject matter defined by original dependent claim 2. Independent claim 28 is allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Official Action.

With regard to Item 4, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's determination that claims 15-27 present subject matter that is allowable over all of the prior art of record in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

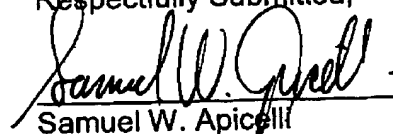
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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicant's undersigned Attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at 717-237-5516.

Date:

6/8/05

Respectfully Submitted,



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